

Council of War At White House Sifts Viet Crisis

By JERRY GREENE

Washington, July 21 (NEWS Bureau)—Presi-

dent Johnson summoned his top advisers to the White House today for an hours long war council on massive new moves in Viet Nam which officials said could go far beyond previous speculation.

Under discussion were the questions of heavy reinforcements, mobilization of reserves, added costs of the war, and strategy planned to overcome a military situation which Defense Secretary McNamara said has deteriorated.

It was expected that when the Presidential deliberations have been concluded, Johnson will announce a decision to send to Viet Nam a force large enough to swing the balance in the guerrilla war and to call up for active duty such reserves as would be needed to replace units shipped to the Far East.

Parley Called in Hurry

Johnson called the White House conference a few hours after McNamara returned from a week's inspection trip to Viet Nam with newly reappointed Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and Gen. Earle Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In addition to McNamara, Lodge and Wheeler, the White

House conferees included Secretary of State Rusk and his undersecretary, George Ball; Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance, CIA Director William Raborn, Carl Rowan, USIA retiring chief, Leonard Marks, his successor, and McGeorge Bundy, assistant to the President for national security affairs.

Johnson scheduled a meeting with McNamara and the Joint Chiefs of Staff alone at 11:45 A.M. tomorrow. White House Press Secretary Bill Moyers said the strategy talks might last for several days. He did not know how or when Johnson will disclose the new U.S. plans.

Moyers said that the discussions in the early hours of the conference dealt largely with

intelligence, economic assistance, pacification measures and the propaganda role of the USIA.

Big Buildup Ahead

The general direction of the plans was well advertised—a big buildup of forces in Viet Nam to clear more territory of the Communist Viet Cong and allow occupation and pacification by Viet army troops. Viet troops, of course, would take part in the new clearing operations.

The forthcoming announcements have been preceded by a carefully timed preparation. After weeks of speculation and small leaks, Johnson broke the word officially at a press conference that new and serious decisions were just ahead, with the suggestion that these would involve troops and reserves.

Then at a following press conference, McNamara made more

blunt reference to mobilization and admitted publicly that the Administration must ask more money. The McNamara-Lodge

trip served to dramatize the situation still further and was part of the plan.

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